The motion was put to vote and carried and the principle of the Bill was accepted by the House.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

1 Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai
2 ,, P. Chidambaram Pillai
3 ,, K. C. Karunakaran
4 ,, M. Mahomed Haneef
5 ,, E. K. Kunjuraman
6 ,, A. Easvara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)
7 ,, A. Easvara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)
8 ,, S. Nilakanta Pillai
9 ,, V. T. Chacko
10 ,, T. T. Kesavan Sastri and
11 ,, Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon

to report within four months.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): I second it.

The motion was declared carried.

THE TRAVANCORE MEDICAL REGISTRATION BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to introduce a Bill for the registration of medical practitioners and for the prevention of the pracitce of the allopathic system of medicine and surgery by persons other than registered practitioners. The Bill has been published in the Gazette with a statement of objects and reasons. I move that the Bill be read in the Assembly.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): I second it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, representations have been made to Government on various occasions and by various bodies that some legal provisions should be made for distinguishing persons who are really qualified to practise the allopathic system of medicine and surgery from those who are mere quacks, who, though they may profess to be qualified in allopathic system of medicine, are not really so.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Were there not representations that people who are professing in other system of medicine should also not be allowed to practise?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There may be .. ..

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is now too early to ask that question?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): The Law Member has, however, understood me.

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MR. KAYALLM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A proposal has been made that a law should be passed in Travancore for the registration of the really qualified persons and the punishment of the unauthorised practitioners. This Bill has been prepared generally on the lines of the Madras Medical Registration Act, IV of 1914. The Bill provides for a Medical Council being established in Travancore with a Registrar as the Council's Secretary, and for their maintaining a register in which the names of qualified persons will be registered. The Council is also given power to remove the name of any person from the register for adequate reasons after making an enquiry for the purpose. An appeal will lie to the Government against the orders of the Council but a resort to the Civil Courts is not allowed. Certain qualifications, which are considered sufficient to entitle a person to registration are given in the schedule to the Bill, but other qualifications also may be accepted on the recommendations of the Council. Further, in view of the existence of a large number of medical practitioners in Travancore who may not have any degrees, provision is made in the Bill that the Council may examine those persons and give them license to entitle them to practise in the country and for registration as medical practitioners in allopathic system.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know who are the persons who are contemplated to come under that Section.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is, persons to be examined ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The purpose immediately in view is to provide for persons who are trained in medical schools in Travancore and in other parts of India but do not possess any degree. They are successful practitioners in the allopathic system. They may not have any degree of any University or any qualification prescribed in the schedule. Such persons may be examined and in future when such persons without qualifications come forward, the Council may examine them and admit them. A provision is made in clause 23 making it penal for any person who is not really qalified in allopathy to practise that system.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know why the member considers that allopathy is more dangerous than Ayurveda, Unani, etc ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not that I consider the misapplication of other systems of medicine less dangerous but these representations have been confined—at any rate largely confined—to allopathic system of medicine. There may have been complaints as regards other systems of medicine also. Perhaps when the complaints grow larger, Government may have to consider legislation to control the practice of those systems of medicine also. But there may possibly be one difficulty in regard to other systems.

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There are not recognised institutions in sufficient numbers in other systems whose degrees may be considered as sufficient to entitle people to practise in such systems and whose degrees or diplomas alone would be treated as conferring eligibility to practise. For example take the case of Ayurveda. No doubt, we have an Ayurvedic College. But we have also persons who are efficient practitioners in Ayurveda who may not have trained themselves in any institution, say for example as the Ashta Vaidyans.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattuvamittu*): In such cases cannot the Council hold examinations?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The question will be whether it will be practicable. Allopathy has been in existence in Europe for a large number of years and we have definite bodies in India as well as elsewhere to examine and it will be very easy to say that such and such persons are qualified and bring them into the register. At any rate, so far as the present Bill is concerned it is contemplated to bring under control the allopathic practitioners alone. It does not say the others need not be brought under legislation. My Bill is confined to one system. If the House is really anxious that practitioners in other systems of medicine should also be brought under legislation that may be considered separately.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is the member aware that the Diploma "L. I. M." recognised by the Madras Government is conferred upon practitioners of *Ayurveda* and *Unani*?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I must know what "L. I. M" means.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I may explain. The Diploma "L. I. M." means "Licentiate in Indian Medicine."

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I accept the information supplied by the member, Sir.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I wish to speak a few words on the principle of this Bill. What is really the object of this enactment is the question for the consideration of the House. Is it merley to keep the fair name of allopathy intact or is it to protect the lives of persons from the clutches of quacks? I consider it more important, Sir, and a more important duty of Government to protect the lives of innocent persons from the practice of medicines by persons who are not qualified to do so. If that should be the object of this Bill, as undoubtedly it is, then this House will be anxious to affirm that and to implement that, I consider that it is more tha Homeopathy, *Ayurveda*, *Unani* and more than all these, the Naturopathy, that is doing havoc among the people who are innocent. Sir, I cannot understand and I deny the fact that there is less of complaint with regard to these forms than with regard to the forms of medicine practised in the allopathic system. If facts are taken into account and if our experience is any guide, I can say from the little experience that I have, that considerably more havoc is

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perpetrated by persons who [illegible] to practise Homeopathy, *Unani* and Naturopathy than Allopathy. There are less of unscrupulous among practitioners of the Allopathic practitioners than there are among the practitioners of the Homeopathic and kindred systems. Degrees which will deceive anybody, degrees, which will import great imortance to persons had they been genuine, are to be found more frequently used by the Homeopathic and other systems of medicine and there are Colleges, Universites and other institutions in India and elsewhere which confer such degrees and give a charter to these persons to work havoc in the rural parts of Travancore. Sir, there is another class of people who do not hold any degrees, who do not put up boards in Travancore but who are more insistent and invidious and danger from them is more persistent and pervades throughout Travancore. I refer to the Naturopathy system. People who read some books, or articles in some periodicals begin to practise upon persons for diseases which require delicate and skillful handling. I know one or two cases where the ultimate penalty of death has occurred to persons by the treatment given by Naturopathic quacks. Persons who ought to know better are indulging in this past-time. Sir, they have to be convicted. If they have escaped scot-free, till now, they should not be allowed to go on in that way any longer. Sir, a particular friend of mine who has been ailing from a serious illness has been subject to the treatment by a quack recently but he escaped from the jaws of death. So I think the scope of the Bill has to be widened. If it is not to be widened, it does not serve its purpose and we may have to oppose the Bill if it is absolutely useless.

The immediate necessity for the Bill is to prevent persons from the hands of quacks. If the Bill cannot be widened, whatever may be the difficulties—the difficulties have to be overcome and the Bill has to be passed by the Legislature to protect the lives of persons. What is the effective method of protecting the lives of persons? That should be the concern of the House, and if that is so, the difficulties in the way should not be sufficient reason for not adapting that course. The difficulties have to be overcome. We are not very keen on passing this legislation merely to say that our statute book also contains a Medical Registration Bill. That is not the purpose. The legislation should be to meet the immediate need and I assert, Sir, and every member here will assert that the complaint is more and more insistent that the danger is great in the practice of other systems of medicine than allepathy. I am not aware and I have not come across quacks who practise allopathic system. I think even if they exist, where other kinds of quacks flourish in abundance, I am sure, that the allopathic quack is not such a common type as the other ones. So that, I have very serious objection to this Bill being introduced and the attention of the House engaged in this limited sphere which is not going to really benefit the public. I am very seriously of opinion and I place that for the information of the House that the principle of the Bill can be accepted only

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if the scope of this legislation, the disciplinary control that can be exercised by this legislation, can be extended to the other nefarious quacks as well who are prevalent in Travancore and who are causing innumerable loss of life and who are practising the most cruel system of exploitation and thereby shortening the lives of several human beings. This should not be allowed. So I consider it a point of vital importance that the scope of the Bill should be extended further and without that this Bill is ineffective and purposeless. So I plead that the scope of the Bill should be enhanced.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Does the member want to include faith quacks also?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Every person who has not sufficient qualification, every person who endangers the lives of persons by his actions—every such person should be brought under law. That is my suggestion.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): The Bill is not only insufficient but also very harmful. Because the moment that it is passed into law you will see the very few quacks in allopathy emerging as quacks of Homeopathy, *Unani* and other types. There may be want of standards on which some provision can be made in regard to other systems of medical practice than allopathy. Here there is a Medical Council and that Council is given the power to hold examinations. Why not we introduce into that Council members who are authorities in these various systems of medicine. Drivers, dismissed peons and people of such cadre practise as doctors. There are M. D's. and people holding M. B. B. S. degree even among them. Therefore it is explained by the Law Member that it is the want of proper standard for really all the systems of medical treatment that prevents him from introducing into the scope of this Bill other forms of treatment prevalent in Travancore. I want to make my position very clear. Even from today onwards you will see the allopathic quacks emerging as quacks of other systems of medical treatment. We are not going to benefit a single individual by introducing this Bill. There are some other provisions also in the Bill, which I think, will be modified during the Select Committee stage, for instance clause 15 in which there is a right of appeal on the decision of the Council and in clause 18 which provides that on no account the period of 3 months for the party affected by the decision of the Council should be extended. We see that there are exceptions made in all other legislations in regard to the application of limitation but such a saving clause is not found inserted here.

Clause 21. Well that again is a clause which will work havoc upon students attending Universities which for no fault of students forfeit recognition by the Council. As a result of the disobedience of Universities these students are obliged to forego the benefits of the degrees conferred upon them. Therefore if the Law Member does not promise anything definitely he would at least say that all kinds of treatments

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prevalent in Travancore will be brought under the purview of this Bill and I submit that this Bill should not be allowed to be referred to the Select Committee in its present form. It is very harmful.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no proposal now before the House that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The question is on the principle contained in the Bill.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): The principle should not be accepted.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir I oppose the introduction of this Bill. The Bill is most dangerous to the public as well as to the medical practitioners. If this Bill is accepted the best medical practitioners of this country like Dr. Noble will be excluded from practising in the State. Other medical practitioners of the Mission Hospitals who have proved their eminence and efficiency will also be excluded.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you mean to say that all these people are without degrees?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): No, Sir, I was trying to point out that the Mission Hospitals will have to be closed down if this Bill becomes Law. In the schedule that is given in this Bill it is stated certain qualification are necessary for persons to become registered practitioners in our State. But these Doctors in the Mission Hospitals have no such prescribed qualification. All of them, as a matter of fact, those gentlemen who are practising successfully, do not possess any of these qualifications specified in the schedule of the Bill.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether there is not a provision in the Bill exempting such people?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I understand that some of the best men of the Mission Hospitals and other Private Practitioners would refuse to undergo the ordeal of the examination, while people who are far inferior to them would get success. If anybody would go to theMission Hospital at Attingal or Kundara he would be surprised to see that patients are running up to those places from various distant places to get medical advice from the medical practitioners employed in those Hospitals and the patients who go over there are successfully treated.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair, I threw out a hint. I am obliged to make an observation. Unless you say that all eminent doctors in these Mission Hospitals are people who have no degrees you cannot develop that argument; and you say that there is not a single member of that staff who has not any degree. Do you say all these people are without any degree?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): All of them are without any degree, as shown in the schedule of the Bill.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you deliberately express that you make yourself personally responsible for the statement you are going to

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make that there is nobody employed in the Mission Hospitals who has any degree ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I have myself already informed the House—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is he prepared to give that undertaking ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether such Medical Practitioners prescribe medicines to their friends and their enemies alike ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): So far as medical practice is concerned there is no question of friend or foe. To a Medical Practitioner all are alike. If the principle contained in this Bill is permitted to be admitted, I fear, that all the Mission Hospitals that have rendered great service to the suffering humanity in the state will have to be closed down and they will have to be replaced by some other "pretenders" I mean persons who hold degrees and are shown in the schedule to this Bill, but who are unfit or incapable to treat patients. Good medical practice requires not degrees but experience and knowledge. As one of my friends just now pointed out a good and experienced medical practitioner would be really reluctant to appear before any council or Body for an examination. Apart from the Mission Hospitals and Salvation Army Hospitals there are some private Doctors who are successfully carrying on their allopathic treatment. The principle contained in this Bill would forbid those gentlemen to continue their medical practice, so much so, people will not get adequate medical relief. Some time back Sir, in the local General Hospital, there was one Mr. Manual who was a Compounder and who subsequently was entertained as a medical officer in the staff of the Hospital. If the principle of the Bill is accepted—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are giving facts of ancient history.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): No, Sir, these facts are from modern history itself. There are various examples to be cited from the ancient History also.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have already said that instances of persons need not be given. I hope Mr. Nair will defer to that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I say this only with the view that if some prominent name is brought in the discussion, all could understand the merit of my argument. With these words I oppose this Bill, Sir, in its entirety. Its principle cannot be accepted. It ought to be rejected.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Sir, I oppose the principle of the Bill. As a remedy suggested it is inadequate and will not cope with the prevalent evil. I personally consider the quacks practising either allopathy or *Ayurveda* or any other system as undesirable on principle. But such a penal measure is inexpedient now in our State. If you look into the medical statistics you will see

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that the Government Hospitals cater only to a very small percentage of the entire population of the state. These quacks are doing a real service to the people in the sense that half a loaf is better than no loaf. The medical practitioners, though they have not any degree, are doing real service and the people have much confidence in them in the rural parts and they have more human kindness and consideration than the boasted degree-holders who are in charge of the various Hospitals in the country. It is not a rate phenomenon in the rural parts to see poor ignorant sick patients being asked to wait outside in the Hospitals unattended simply because they have not five rupees to spare, the only passport to attract the sympathetic attention of the medical officer in charge of the Hospital. (*Hear hear.*)

I must say that the Law Member has exhibited absolute lack of imagination in having chosen this particular moment of acute economic depression for introducing a measure of this nature which cuts at the root of rural medical relief in this State. It is not unlikely or unnatural that the Government might have received representations from interested parties, from unemployed medical degree-holders, for a measure like the one now before the House. It is of course a matter for heart-burning for them when they find that, in rural parts, in spite of their degrees, they do not get any practice whereas men with no educational or examination qualifications get good practice and command the confidence of the rural population. It is a well known fact, Sir, that the popularity of a physician does not depend upon his degree or examination but on very many other factors. Personal attention, courtesy, kindness, above all careful and correct diagnosis of the disease, these are the main factors necessary for a doctor becoming popular. Sympathy is what the people want from medical men. These things have nothing to do with University degrees.

After all, Sir, how have we suffered for want of a Bill like the one we are now discussing? In spite of these so-called quacks, the Census Commissioner tells us in his report that our population is steadily increasing. There cannot, therefore, be any grave danger to our population if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue. I submit, Sir, that so long as Government do not come forward with a net-work of rural dispensaries to afford medical relief to the poor rural population at their doors, we are not justified in enacting a penal legislation like the one now before us. In the absence of well-equipped rural dispensaries, the poor people in rural parts, people who cannot spare even 2 as. or 4 as. for medical relief, must be allowed to have at least the help that they are now able to get from the indigenous doctors, the so-called quacks. Sir, Government may issue any number of circulars that their medical officers must not receive any remuneration for the treatment that they give in the Government hospitals and dispensaries. But the grim fact remains that only the rich are able to attract the attention of the medical officers of Government. The poor man in the street has always to depend upon the native physician.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Bill does not say that only Doctors in the service of Government shall practise hereafter. The Bill allows qualified and recognised private practitioners also to practise medicine. I merely want to draw your attention to that fact.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : I have gone through the Bill, Sir, and I know that, over and above the Government doctors, qualified private doctors also can practise the profession even after this Bill becomes law. But my point is that there is no reason why the numerous unqualified physicians, who are enjoying the confidence of the people, who are doing real service to the bulk of the population, should be penalised for the sake of the few costly medical degree-holders, especially in the absence of the very necessary provision of a net-work of rural dispensaries. Till we create such a net-work of rural dispensaries the representatives of the people ought not to encourage a penal legislation like the one now before us.

There is, in the Bill, as we all know, provision for a Medical Council which is empowered to certify that even unqualified men may practise the profession if they appear before the Medical Council and satisfy them about their experience and work. My submission, Sir, is that in that provision the Law Member is only affording another institution for corruption. It will help only those who can get the favour or good-will of high officials or rich and influential men. That provision will only help corruption, and as such should not be encouraged.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : What is the remedy that the member would suggest?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : Before disqualifying the numerous unqualified, indigenous *vaidyans*, the so-called quacks, Government must make decent and adequate provision for the medical needs of the people throughout the State. I admit that treatment by these indigenous *vaidyans* may not be scientific. It may even be risky and dangerous. Still, in the absence of better medical aid, the people do get immense relief from the present treatment, unscientific as it may be. As a matter of fact, people find from actual experience that they do get relief from these *vaidyans*. Else there is no reason why these *vaidyans* should be so popular as they are now. The people are now able to get cheap medical aid at their door. That is why I submit that, before we penalise the present rural practitioners, we must provide for a more suitable and better substitute.

Another objectionable feature of the Bill is that, in order to get recognised and registered as practitioners, these practitioners have to appear before the Medical Council and satisfy them. The discretion is left to the Medical Council to allow these rural practitioners to continue their practice or not. That, certainly, is not a desirable provision. I can understand a provision to the effect that in future only persons with prescribed qualifications, recognised by the Government

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or by some other agency like the Medical Council, will be allowed to practise; but to say that even people who have been practising for the last 10 or 15 years, who have been doing real service to the people, should now be compelled to satisfy the fanciful standards of the medical council is not proper and we should not allow retrospective effect to this piece of legislation. This provision really curtails one of the elementary rights of the people. I submit, Sir, that just like fresh air, light and good water, medical aid also every citizen can insist as absolute necessity. Therefore, in the absence of adequate medical relief provided by Government, it is only natural that the people seek the aid of the existing agency. I therefore oppose the principle of this Bill. If the House is going to accept the principle of the Bill, I submit that, at least in the Select Committee, some of the provisions must undergo a radical change. The very scope of the Bill requires change.

The Bill must respect the present vested interests, must take into consideration the existing unqualified practitioners of standing and must legislate and lay down conditions only for the future practitioners.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I heartily support the principle of this Bill. I may, in this connection, remind the House of the old controversy between the medical practitioner and the legal practitioner as to who was more useful to society. The legal practitioner said that the blunder of the medical man could be seen 6 feet below the ground. The medical practitioner retorted that the blunder of the legal practitioner could be seen high up in the air. I am glad that the Medical Practitioners' Bill and the Bar Council Bill are, after all, about to be placed on the legislative anvil of Travancore.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT You are wrong one has already been placed on the anvil. The fact that a Bill has been introduced means that it has been placed on the legislative anvil.

MR A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): This Bill is now being actually hammered.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Yes. It is none too soon that we get such a useful measure. Even in Madras, which is the most backward province in British India, a measure like our present Bill was passed into law so long ago as 1914, over 20 years ago. Sir, the absence of proper standards prescribed under a legislative enactment has been felt in Travancore on more than one occasion.

The Honourable Members will remember that when, the other day, we were considering the Lunacy Bill, we felt great difficulty on account of the absence of an enactment like the one now before us. The term "medical practitioner" had to be defined in the Lunacy Bill, under which a lunatic had to be examined and declared a lunatic by a competent and qualified medical practitioner. At that

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time, some of us who had foreboding about the present Bill were quite satisfied since we knew that the necessary provision would be made in this Bill.

This Bill is a very important measure. While heartily supporting its principles, I would also urge upon the attention of the House, the necessity to widen the scope of the Bill so as to include practitioners of *Unani*, *Siddha*, *Ayurveda* and other systems of medicines.

With these observations, I support the principle of the Bill.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRIHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): In spite of the strenuous and oft-repeated arguments of Messrs. S. J. Nair and Edavanatt Padmanabha Menon, I regret I cannot agree with them. As has been pointed out by Mr. Pacode Narayana Pillai, this is a very important and very necessary measure. Travancore has only been late to prevent effectively... .....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you speak up, Mr. Panickar?

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRIHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): Travancore has only been late to recognise the need to prevent the pernicious and insidious growth of the so-called medical practitioners whose services are so much extolled to the skies as the saviours of humanity in Travancore.

Sir, it has been argued that, since the Government have not been able to provide suitable and adequate medical relief to all the people in the country, these quacks must be freely allowed to dole out indiscriminately doses of their poison so that they may end sooner the lives of the sick and the infirm.

If legislation like the Vakil's Regulation can be made to restrict the activities of individuals in the matter of choice of their profession intended to serve the people in the matter of their liberty and property, why not a piece of legislation which would secure the lives of people from the pernicious effects of the so-called medical practitioners be enacted? If it is true that the Bill proposed by the Law Member is inadequate, why should we reject the Bill instead of making it adequate to meet the requirements. I entirely agree with the principle of the Bill and would add that every kind of medical practitioners practising in Travancore must be brought within its purview.

Coming to another aspect of the matter, the schedule attached to this Bill seems to be defective in one very material particular. Going through it very carefully, I find the absence of the medical degrees obtained in the British Isles. If those degrees are not to be recognised in Travancore as sufficent guarantee to practise medicine, I do not know how our Darbar Physician himself will hold his job in Travancore. With these observations, I support the principle of the Bill and request that the provision should be enlarged so as to bring in all kinds of medical practitioners.

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MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): സർ, തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തു് ഒരു മെഡിക്കൽ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ബില്ലുകൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ട കാലമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായക്കാരനല്ല ഞാൻ. എല്ലാതാലൂക്കുകളിലേയും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ചികിത്സിപ്പിച്ചു എന്നുള്ള ആശ്വാസത്തിനെങ്കിലും വൈദ്യസഹായം ലഭിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ധാരാളമായി അലോപ്പതി ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂഷൻസോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഹോമിയോപ്പതി, ആയുർവേദം ആദിയായ വൈദ്യശാലകളോ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതുവരെ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു മെഡിക്കൽ റജിസ്ട്രേഷൻബിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നിരാശയുണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായമാണെനിക്കുള്ളതു്. ഹോമിയോപ്പതി, നാച്വറോപ്പതി, ഇടങ്ങിയ പേരിൽ വൈദ്യം നടത്തുന്നവരിൽ നിന്നുമുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളാണ് അധികമുള്ളതു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉപദ്രവകാരികളെ തീരെ ഒഴിച്ചും അത്രമാത്രം ഉപദ്രവകാരികളല്ലാത്ത അലോപ്പതിക്കാരെമാത്രം ബാധിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണവും ഉള്ള ഒരു ബിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. പരമാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഡിഗ്രിയുള്ള അലോപ്പതിഡാക്ടർമാരുടെ പണസാമ്പാദനത്തിനു ഇന്നുബാധകമായിനില്ക്കുന്ന ഡിഗ്രിയില്ലാത്ത അലോപ്പതിഡാക്ടന്മാരുടെ ഉപദ്രവത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു് അവക്കു കൂടുതൽ ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കാമെന്നുള്ളതല്ലാതെ അതിൽ കൂടുതലായി യാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ ഈ ബില്ലുകൊണ്ടു് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായികാണുന്നില്ല.

ഒരു ബിൽ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് പരിപൂർണ്ണമായിരിക്കണം. ഈ ബില്ലിൽ അവ്യാപ്തിദോഷവും, അതിവ്യാപ്തിദോഷവും കണ്ടുണ്ടു്. ഹോമിയോപ്പതി വൈദ്യന്മാരെ ഇവിടെ ഏതുഭാഗത്തും ധാരാളംകാണാം. വലിയ അക്ഷരത്തിൽ "എം. ഡി." എന്നും മറ്റും എഴുതി, ഒടുവിൽ ബ്രാക്കറിൽ "ഹോമിയോ" എന്നും എഴുതി ജനങ്ങളെ ഇക്കൂട്ടർ തെറ്റിദ്ധരിപ്പിക്കയാണു് ചെയ്തുവരുന്നതു്. അടുത്തകാലത്തു പ്ലാഞ്ചറ്റ് വൈദ്യന്മാരും ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. മുന്നൂറുപാകൊടുത്ത് ഒരു പലകവാങ്ങിയാൽ ആർക്കും "പ്ലാഞ്ചറ്റ്" വൈദ്യന്മാരാകാം. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കൂട്ടരെ ആരേയും ഈ ബില്ലിൽ ചേർക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ഇതിനു അവ്യാപ്തിദോഷമുണ്ടു്. ആയുർവേദത്തെ ഇതിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താതു് അഷ്ടവൈദ്യന്മാരുടെ സ്ഥാനത്തെ വിചാരിച്ചാണെന്നു ലാമെമ്പർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. അതുപോലെ പത്തും പതിനഞ്ചും കൊല്ലം അലോപ്പതിസിസ്റ്റം അനുസരിച്ചു ചികിത്സനടത്തി ജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്ദിക്കും ബഹുമാനത്തിനും അർഹന്മാരായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള നല്ലവൈദ്യന്മാരുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർ മെ

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ഡിക്കൽകൗൺസിലിൽപോയി അവിടത്തെ പരീക്ഷപാസാകാതെ പ്രാക്റ്റീസ് ചെയ്യാൻ അനുവദിക്കുകയില്ലഎന്നുള്ളതാണ് ബില്ലിലെ അതിവ്യാപ്തിദോഷം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ളവർ നല്ലവിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ളവരാണ്; യോഗ്യന്മാരായും അയോഗ്യന്മാരായുമുള്ളവരെ തിരിച്ചറിയുവാൻ അവക്കു പ്രാപ്തിയുണ്ട്. ഒന്നോരണ്ടോകൊല്ലമാണെങ്കിൽ ഒരുപക്ഷെ അയോഗ്യന്മാരായ ഡാക്ടർമാരുടെ മിരട്ടിൽപെട്ടുഎന്നു വന്നേക്കാം. നേരേമറിച്ചു പത്തുപേതിനഞ്ചുംകൊല്ലം വൈകയ്ക്കുകൊള്ളാത്ത വൈദ്യന്മാരുടെ മിരട്ടിൽപെടത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ബുദ്ധിശൂന്യത തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജനത്തിക്കുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. മെഡിക്കൽകൌൺസിൽ എന്നു് ഒരു പുതിയവ്യവസ്ഥ ഈ ബില്ലിൽ ചേത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്: അതിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായിവരാൻ പോകുന്നവരാരാണെന്നും അവരിൽനിന്നു് അനുകൂല്യം പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചാൻപോകുന്നതാക്കാണന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ വഴിയില്ല. എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം തുറന്നുപറകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ ജനരഞ്ജനയുള്ള വൈദ്യനാണെ മെഡിക്കൽകൌൺസിലിന്റെ ട്രഷ്ടിയിൽ അയോഗ്യനാക്കാൻ ഇടവരുന്നതു്. അവരിൽനിന്നുമാത്രമെ ഈ ബിൽ കൊണ്ടു സഹായിക്കാൻദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവക്കു നഷ്ടംവരാൻ ഇടയുള്ളു. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ അയോഗ്യന്മാരായിട്ടുള്ളവരെ മെഡിക്കൽ പ്രാക്റ്റീസിന്നു നിർബാധം അനുവദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. അതിനാൽ എല്ലാവൈദ്യന്മാരെയും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയും യോഗ്യന്മാരായ അലോപ്പതിവൈദ്യന്മാരെ മെഡിക്കൽകൌൺസിലിൽ പോകാതെ പ്രാക്റ്റീസ് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു അനുവദിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥകളും രൂപീകരിച്ചും ഉള്ള ഒരു ബില്ലാണു് ആവശ്യമുള്ളതെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ ബില്ലിന്റെ മൂലതത്വത്തോടു യോജിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I also oppose this Bill. In fact the Bill counts the practitioners of only one system of medicine, namely, the allopathic system, as the real medical practitioners. If that is the ony recognisable system of medicine, Government has to begin by stopping the Ayurveda institutions in the State, by abolishing the Ayurveda College in the first instance and withdrawing all the grants now given to the Ayurveda institutions. If, on the other hand, the Agurveda system is a system entitled to recognition as a system of medicine, it passes my understanding why this Bill does not say anything about that. The Learned Law Member seems to concentrate all This attention upon allopathy when he said that the whole system of allopathic medicine will be made subject to a council to be formed, known as the Travancore Medical Council. I am afraid that would be installing a tyrannous institution over the

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medical practitioners of the allopathic system in this State. I know certain allopathic doctors who in order to ingratiate themselves into the favour of their superiors resort to certain methods to secure their good graces. In spite of the assumed merits of the allopathic system whatever they may be,—I am only a layman, and am not in a position to examine critically that system—there are very serious conflicts between doctors For instance, in one case one doctor was of opinion that a man had haemic murmur while another doctor of equal status totally denied it. This difference was referred to their superior who without deciding who was right, was found to stand like Colossus of Rhodes astride over them. That is how it ended. Thus we meet with all manner of differences in the allopathic system. We also come across gross carelessness on the part of doctors, male and female. Hence where is the immaculate glory that is claimed for the allopathic doctors? Here you are going to instal a central organisation in the State which will hereafter control the destinies of the allopathic doctors in the State. There are allopathic doctors who are unsympathetic to the poor in the State. In the town of Alleppey there are doctors who in spite of various degree-holders are carrying on charitable medical activities for the relief of the poor and probably making much money by such generous practice. It will be a very serious disaster if these doctors, who now afford relief to the poor, are to be eliminated because they do not satisfy the Medical Council. If they are not to be recognised, the poor will have to go without any medical help. The Government of Travancore have been approached by the members of this House for medical assistance in various centres of this State. But there has not been any adequate response, and if this medical council is set up, what will be the effect of it except to close the doors for all help? The man who now administers medicine may be a quack in some instances, but he is thriving, proving thereby the insufficiency and the worthiness of the professionals. The poor man finds that some sort of relief is available to him. In these circumstances, I am submitting that before you interfere with the freedom of medical practice you must be prepared to do the needful yourself by supplying proper medical assistance. Unless that is done this Bill will be a postively ruinous measure from the standpoint of the poor classes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: To-morrow will be a non-official day. The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 11 A.M.

The House adjourned at 4-58 P.M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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